

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A container comprising a container body (40), a container lid (2), a cassette (4), and a cassette lid (3) to house said cassette (3) in air tight condition and to store a plurality of precision-requiring substrate plates including semiconductor wafers placed in said cassette (3) in substantially equally spaced status:

said container body (40) including a sectionally L shaped flange (42) surrounding an external sidewall of said container body (40) outer peripherally to form an upward channel (42a) so as to receive a gasket (5);

said container body (40) further including a first flange (13) rimming out integrally from a bottom of the L shaped flange (42) to surround laterally said body (40), with exception for a prescribed D-zone-defining length D (D) located at centers on front and rear of the body (40);

said container body (40) further including a second flange (14) rimming out from the external sidewall of said body (40), with a shape and rim-out length substantially equal to the first flange (13), at a position heightwise ~~one to several centimeters~~ an appropriate length below from the first flange (14), with exception for the prescribed length D (D); the first flange (13) and the second flange (14) being interconnected with a plurality of vertical ribs (15);

said container body ~~(40)~~ further including, within the prescribed length D ~~(D)~~, at least one D zone lateral rib ~~(46)~~ rimming out from the front and rear sidewalls of the body ~~(40)~~ for a length substantially equal to the L shaped flange ~~(42)~~, at a position heightwise above from the second flange ~~(44)~~; the D zone lateral ribs ~~(46)~~ each being provided with at least one engaging projection ~~(46a)~~ engageable with said container lid ~~(2)~~ to accomplish air tight seal by engagement with an engaging plate, each said engaging plate being integrally, rigidly connected with the container lid, and provided with vertical extension and to stride across the D zone; the L shaped flange ~~(42)~~ and the D zone lateral rib ~~(46)~~ being interconnected with a plurality of D zone vertical ribs ~~(47)~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The container as defined in claim 1, wherein an underside of the L shaped flange ~~(42)~~ forming a channel ~~(42a)~~ to receive the gasket ~~(5)~~, and undersides of the first and second flanges ~~(13, 14)~~ are provided outwardly with an elevation angle (θ_1), and uppersides of the first and second flanges ~~(13, 14)~~ are provided outwardly with a depression angle (θ_2).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The container as defined in claim 1, wherein the second flange ~~(44)~~ and the D zone lateral rib ~~(46)~~ are, each at an outer edge, turned down to form a lateral tab ~~(14a, 16a)~~, the lateral tabs ~~(14a, 16a)~~ on said second flange each including a cut point ~~(14b, 16c)~~ at an intermediate point thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The container as defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of vertical ribs ~~(45)~~ and D zone vertical ribs ~~(47)~~ are installed with a lateral interval from 0.5 to 3.5 times a vertical interval between the first and second flanges

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~~(13, 14)~~, or a vertical interval between the L shaped flange ~~(12)~~ and the D zone lateral rib ~~(16)~~.